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106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2620

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of glaucoma detection services under part B of the Medicare Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 1999

Mr. FOLEY (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. COOKSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of glaucoma detection services under part B of the Medicare Program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Medicare Glaucoma Detection Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF GLAUCOMA DETECTION TESTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended—

(1) in subsection (s)(2)—

(A) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (S),

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (T) and inserting "; and", and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(U) glaucoma detection tests (as defined in subsection (uu));"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"Glaucoma Detection Tests

"(uu) The term 'glaucoma detection test' means all of the following conducted for the purpose of early detection of glaucoma:

"(1) A dilated eye examination with an intraocular pressure measurement.

"(2) Direct ophthalmoscopy or slit-lamp biomicroscopic examination.".

(b) LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY AND FREQUENCY.—Section 1834 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(m) LIMITATION ON COVERAGE OF GLAUCOMA DETECTION TESTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, with respect to expenses incurred for glaucoma detection tests (as defined in section 1861(uu)), payment may be made only for glaucoma detection tests conducted—

"(A) for individuals described in paragraph (2), and

"(B) consistent with the frequency permitted under paragraph (3).

"(2) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFIT.—Individuals described in this paragraph are as follows:

"(A) Individuals who are 65 years of age or older.

"(B) Individuals who are 60 years of age or older and who have a family history of glaucoma.

"(C) Other individuals who are at high risk (as determined by the Secretary) of developing glaucoma.

"(3) FREQUENCY LIMIT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), payment may not be made under

this part for glaucoma detection tests performed for an individual within 23 months following the month in which glaucoma detection tests were performed under this part for the individual.

"(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may permit glaucoma detection tests to be covered on a more frequent basis than that provided under subparagraph (A) under such circumstances as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(c) NO APPLICATION OF DEDUCTIBLE.—Section 1833(b)(5) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(b)(5)) is amended by inserting "or with respect to glaucoma detection tests (as defined in section 1861(uu))" after "1861(jj))".

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1862(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (H), by striking "and" at the end,

(B) in subparagraph (I), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting ", and", and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(J) in the case of glaucoma detection tests (as defined in section 1861(uu)), which are performed more frequently than is covered under section 1834(m)(3);"; and

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking "or (H)" and inserting "(H), or (I)".

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section apply to tests provided on or after January 1, 2000.

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